AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A video recorder, comprising:

a processor communicating with memory;

a loop buffer storing video data of an event captured by a camera, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded;

a set of rules stored in the memory, the set of rules describing ~~an event~~ a first event and a second event, wherein if the first event is not accompanied by the second event, then the set of rules further describes that ~~causes~~ the contents of the loop buffer are ~~to be~~ transferred into the memory and if the first event is accompanied by the second event, then the set of rules further describes that the contents of the loop buffer are not transferred into the memory;

when the processor determines that the event captured by the camera does not match the first event described by the set of rules, then the processor discards the contents of the loop buffer;

when the processor determines that the event captured by the camera matches the first event described by the set of rules and the event captured by the camera is not accompanied by the second event, then the processor transfers the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide time-delayed video data, the time-delayed video data preceding the event captured by the camera that matches the first event described by the set of rules ~~that causes transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory~~; and

the processor tags the time-delayed video data with metadata describing the event that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.

2. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a mass-storage device, the mass storage device storing the video data of the event.

3. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises an optical storage device.

4. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a memory card.

5. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a flash memory storage device.

6. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface to a communications network.

7. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the set of rules specifies vehicular data that causes a transfer of the contents of the loop buffer into the memory devices memory.

8. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising a switch to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

9. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the loop buffer also stores audio data of the event captured by a microphone.

10. (Original) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface with a vehicle controller to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.

11. (Previously Presented) A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

means for storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing video data of an event captured by a camera in a loop buffer, the loop buffer storing the video data for a predetermined duration of time, after which the video data is transferred or discarded;

applying a set of rules, the set of rules describing ~~an event~~ a first event and a second event, wherein if the first event is not accompanied by the second event, then the set of rules further describes that ~~causes~~ contents of the loop buffer ~~to be~~ are transferred into memory and if the first event is accompanied by the second event, then the set of rules further describes that the contents of the loop buffer are not transferred into the memory;

when the event captured by the camera does not match the first event described by the set of rules, then discarding the contents of the loop buffer;

when the event captured by the camera matches the first event described by the set of rules and the event captured by the camera is not accompanied by the second event, then transferring the contents of the loop buffer to the memory to provide video data that precedes the event captured by the camera that matches the first event described by the set of rules ~~that causes transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory~~; and

tagging the preceding video data with metadata describing the event that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a mass-storage device.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to an optical storage device.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a flash memory storage device.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer via a communications network.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a switch to transfer video data of the event.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring audio data of the event.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a vehicle controller to transfer video data of the event.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising:

receiving vehicular data describing powertrain management system information, electrical management system information, and chassis management system information; and

storing the set of rules specifying the vehicular data that causes the transfer of the contents of the loop buffer to the memory.